

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School
Archdiocese of Philadelphia Recommended
Summer Reading 2026
Third Grade Entering Fourth Grade

Required Reading: Jake Drake, Bully Buster by Andrew Clements

Upon return to school, students should be prepared to complete a classroom activity that correlates with the required reading.

***Best Year Ever* by Barbara Robinson** One day the teachers ask all the students to think of compliments for their classmates, and Beth Bradley picks Imogene Herdman's name. At first, Beth can't think of anything good, but soon she begins to see Imogene in a new light. ©2011 Grade Level 4-6

***The Boy in the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf** There used to be an empty chair at the back of Mrs. Khan's classroom, but on the third Tuesday of the school year a new kid fills it: nine-year-old Ahmet, a Syrian refugee. ©2019 Grade Level 4-5 CLIP
Carnegie Medal Children's Book Award Nominee

***Brave Like My Brother* by Marc Tyler Nobleman** When Charlie's brother, Joe, is called up to fight in World War II, he promises to write letters to ten-year-old Charlie as often as he can. It won't make up for not being there to help Charlie out with the neighborhood bullies, but it's all Joe can do. ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

***The Chestertons and the Golden Key* by Nancy Carpentier Brown** Summer vacation turns into an adventure for the three Nicholl sisters when Mr. Gilbert Chesterton and his wife come to town. Eleven-year-old Clare hopes to write a detective story. Eight-year-old Cece wants to be a champion roller-skater. And ten-year-old Joan just wants to learn how to play the locked piano in the family living room. But as they befriend the Chestertons, skating accidents, surprising friendships, puppet shows, and mystery solving ensue! ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

***The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner** - tells the story of four orphaned siblings, Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny, who find an abandoned boxcar and make it their home while trying to avoid a grandfather they fear. Through hard work and ingenuity, they establish a life together, solving mysteries and making friends on their adventures. ©1924 Grade Level 2-6

***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez** There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. ©2017 Grade Level 4-6. 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book

***Flashback Four #1: The Lincoln Project* by Dan Gutman** Four very different kids are picked by a mysterious billionaire to travel through time and photograph some of history's most important events. This time, the four friends are headed to 1863 to catch Abraham Lincoln delivering his famous Gettysburg Address. ©2017 Grade Level 4-7

***Frindle* by Andrew Clements** - a mischievous fifth grader, Nick Allen, who invents a new word, "frindle," to replace "pen" as a prank against his strict language arts teacher, Mrs. Granger. The word catches on, spreading throughout the school and town, and even making it into the dictionary. ©1996 Grade Level 4-6. 1997 Christopher Award for Books for Young People, 2016 Phoenix Award

***George Washington's Spy* by Elvira Woodruff** Ten-year-old Matt Carlton and six friends are accidentally swept back in time--to Boston in 1776! The British now occupy the city, and redcoat guards are everywhere! While the boys are being held captive by a den of Patriot spies, the girls have been taken in by a wealthy Tory family. ©2012 Grade Level 4-5

***Katerina's Wish* by Jeannie Mobley** Thirteen-year-old Trina's family left Bohemia for a Colorado coal town to earn money to buy a farm, but by 1901 she doubts that either hard work or hoping will be enough, even after a strange fish seems to grant her sisters' wishes. ©2012 Grade Level 4-7

***Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood** With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Ken to escape. He suspects his stepmother is glad to see him go, but his dad says he's one of the lucky ones—one of ninety boys and girls to ship out aboard the SS City of Benares to safety in Canada. ©2019 Grade Level 4-6, 2019 Golden Kite Middle Grade Fiction Award Winner, 2019 ALSC Notable Children's Book

***Lincoln and Kennedy: A Pair to Compare* by Gene Barretta** President Abraham Lincoln grew up in a one-room log cabin. President John F. Kennedy was raised in the lap of luxury. One was a Republican and one a Democrat. They lived and served a hundred years apart. ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

***Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert* by Gary D. Schmidt** As the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave, Martin de Porres was born into extreme poverty. Even so, his mother begged the church fathers to allow him into the priesthood. Instead, Martin was accepted as a servant boy. But soon, the young man

was performing miracles. **2013 Pura Belpre Award for Illustration ©2012 Grade Level 3-5**

***The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail* by Richard Peck** The tiniest mouse in the Royal Mews is such a mystery he doesn't even know his own name! He scampers off on an epic adventure in and around Buckingham Palace with a plan to seek the advice of Queen Victoria. The exhilarating journey takes him to strange and wonderful places, but will it help him discover who he is and where he came from? **©2014 Grade Level 4-5**

***Raffie on the Run* by Jacqueline Resnick** Raffie Lipton lives a rat's dream life. In his family's subway station home, he has all the food he can forage from the treasure chests humans call trash cans, and the perfect shoebox bed for telling his brother his famous adventure stories. **©2018 Grade Level 3–6**

***Saint Bernadette Soubirous: The Little Shepherd Girl* by Mary Fabyan Windeatt** - a hundred and fifty years ago, Lourdes was a very little village, and Bernadette, the one who started it all, was just a very simple girl of fourteen." So begins the story of Bernadette and her amazing encounters with the Blessed Virgin Mary. **©2010 Grade Level 1-5**

***Trapped in a Video Game* by Dustin Brady** Jesse hates video games - and for good reason. You see, a video game character is trying to kill him. After getting sucked into the new game *Full Blast* with his best friend, Eric, Jesse quickly discovers that he's being followed by a mysterious figure. If he doesn't figure out what's going on fast, he'll be trapped for good! **©2018 Grade Level 4-5**

***Wish Girl* by Nikki Loftin** Peter Stone's parents and siblings are extroverts, musicians, and yellers—and the louder they get, the less Peter talks, or even moves, until he practically fits his last name. When his family moves to the Texas Hill Country, though, Peter finds a tranquil, natural valley where he can, at last, hear himself think. **©2016 Grade Level 4-6**